

## **MONTANA WOLF PROGRAM - WEEKLY REPORT**

**TO:** Interested Parties  
**FROM:** Ken McDonald, Wildlife Bureau Chief  
**SUBJECT:** Wolf Program Activities and Related Information  
**WEEK OF:** March 26-April 1, 2011

Contributors to the Montana Wolf Weekly are Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP), Universities, USDA Wildlife Services (WS), the National Park Service (NPS; Glacier NP; Yellowstone National Park will be reported in the Wyoming Wolf Weekly), US Forest Service, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, and the Blackfeet Nation.

Highlighted activities relate to: monitoring, wolf-livestock interactions, outreach and education, research, law enforcement, and other miscellaneous topics of public interest. The Weekly Report will be available each Monday, covering the previous week. It and other wolf program information (including the 2009 annual report) can be found on the FWP website.

### **WOLF MONITORING ACTIVITIES:**

Flights

4/1: Nelson conducted a monitoring flight.

### **WOLF-LIVESTOCK ACTIVITIES:**

### **OUTREACH AND EDUCATION:**

3/31: Laudon gave a talk on wolves and the FWP wolf program to the Yaak Rod and Gun Club and general public. There were about 50 in attendance.

3/30: Bradley gave a talk to a biology class of ~6 seniors at Darby High School.

### **RESEARCH ACTIVITIES:**

### **LAW ENFORCEMENT AND RELATED ACTIVITIES:**

## OTHER UPDATES:

3/28: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) announced the availability of a draft Environmental Assessment (EA) of Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks' (FWP) request to control gray wolves in the West Fork Elk Management Unit in western Montana in response to impacts of wolf predation on elk.

In 2008, the Service issued a revised wolf management rule under Section 10(j) of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) for the Northern Rocky Mountain area allowing states or tribes to lethally take wolves within the experimental population area when wolf predation is having an unacceptable impact on wild ungulate populations. For this management action to occur, the Service must approve the proposal under the requirements of the 2008 10(j) rule. Specifically, the Service must find that the proposal is science-based, will not contribute to reducing the wolf population in the state below 20 breeding pairs and 200 wolves, and will not impede wolf recovery.

On November 24, 2010, the Montana FWP submitted a proposal under the 2008 Section 10(j) rule to the Service requesting authority to reduce the wolf population in the West Fork Elk Management Unit in western Montana in response to impacts of wolves on elk.

The Notice of Availability of the EA is available on the *Federal Register* web site at <http://www.regulations.gov>. The public is encouraged to review the draft EA and submit comments on site-specific effects of the proposed action

To learn more about Montana's wolf population, the Montana program and to help FWP monitor wolves by reporting wolf sign, visit FWP online. Use the following shortcut link and be sure to update your bookmarks: <http://fwp.mt.gov/wolf>

To anonymously report a dead or injured wolf or suspected illegal activity, call: 1-800-TIP-MONT or 1-800-847-6668.

To request an investigation of injured or dead livestock, call USDA Wildlife Services directly in western Montana / Helena area at 406-458-0106 or in eastern Montana at the statewide office at 406-657-6464. Or, call your nearest FWP representative to have your call referred to Wildlife Services.

If you have a confirmed or probable livestock death loss due to wolves, USDA Wildlife Services will supply you with a copy of the Loss Reimbursement Application form. For more information, see <http://liv.mt.gov/liv/LM/index.asp> Or, contact the Livestock Loss

Reduction and Mitigation Program Coordinator, George Edwards at the Montana Department of Livestock at 406-444-5609.